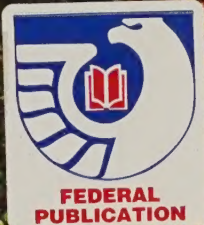


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Plant a Seed, Share the Growth



*USDA Forest Service and
Bailey's Elementary School
for the Arts and Sciences*

A PARTNERSHIP



USDA Forest Service photo #97NO108-23A

*Partners
celebrate
multiculturalism
at a USDA
ethnic heritage
observance.*

Why the Partnership?

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, located in historic Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia, is the most culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse elementary school in Fairfax County. The 850 students from 45 countries speak over 20 languages. A "magnet" school, offering a fine arts, science, and technology emphasis, Bailey's serves

the neighborhood children, and others are accepted through a random lottery. The educational program was created to meet the needs of the large language minority population through hands-on learning activities that

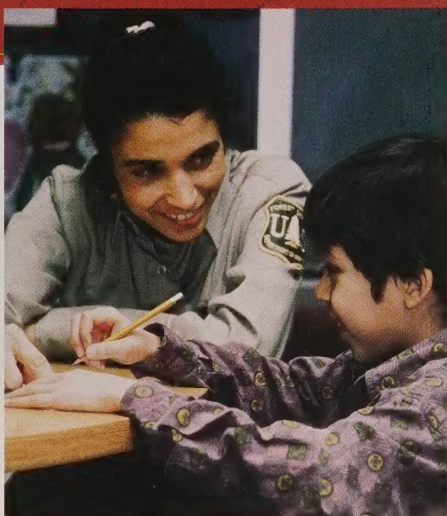
interrelate subject areas with the child's interests and the real world. The USDA Forest Service is committed to improving the quality of the

community by planting seeds of appreciation and awareness of the natural environment and by soliciting multicultural involvement. The Forest Service partnership with Bailey's provides the opportunity to influence the education of children in the care of natural resources and to encourage the development of a skilled and diverse future workforce. Association with Forest Service professionals increases students' interest in, knowledge of, and reverence for the environment. Helping Bailey's students to find relevance in the natural world is an investment in tomorrow.

The partnership is a mutually beneficial relationship that nurtures the growth and learning of Bailey's students, and positively affects the Forest Service and its employees as well as the communities in which they live.



Forest Service staff plant the seeds of learning by volunteering at the Bailey's homework center.



FCPS photo - R. Wyant

What is the Partnership?

The growing partnership is defined by activities that branch out in three directions:

Bailey's Students at the USDA Forest Service

For Forest Service employees, Bailey's students exhibit and enhance an appreciation of many cultures and of the arts by decorating USDA hallways with student artwork, participating in Forest Service-produced videos such as the 50th Anniversary of Smokey Bear, and performing for ethnic heritage observances.

USDA Forest Service at Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences

Forest Service employees volunteer their time as one-on-one mentors in Bailey's after-school homework center for academically at-risk students, assisting with homework,



reading, writing, and sometimes just listening. Many other volunteer opportunities exist to share in students' growth: as classroom helpers, career speakers, and presenters in the science lab. Forest Service employees also participate in such activities as planting a tree on Arbor Day and presenting ways to survive in the wild to students in the summer learning program.

Together, Bailey's Students and USDA Forest Service Employees Explore the Environment

The USDA Forest Service provides field-trip experiences that integrate the school's curriculum with the Forest Service mission of natural resource education while providing opportunities many Bailey's students would not otherwise have. Fourth graders visit Luray Caverns and Skyline Drive during their study of rocks and minerals and regions of Virginia. Second graders studying animal life observe animal habitats



Bailey's students are intrigued by the circle of life as evident in the cross-section of a tree.



USDA Forest Service photo #92CN0478-25A



Spelunking with Forest Service employees at Luray Caverns stimulates children's curiosity about the natural world.

USDA Forest Service photo #96CN1337-13



FCPS photo - R. Wyant

Learning takes flight as students observe the habits of finches provided by the USDA Forest Service

at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Third graders conduct water quality testing and explore a transitional forest at Mason Neck State Park in Northern Virginia as part of their unit on environment. Each June, Bailey's students are treated to a day of fishing and environmental education in Washington, DC, to celebrate National Fishing Week.

How Do You Get Involved in the Partnership?

As a friend of the Forest Service, contact—

Civil Rights Staff
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703-235-2931
Fax: 703-235-9498
Homepage: <http://www.fs.fed.us>

As a friend of Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, contact—

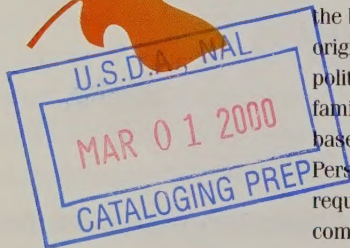
Principal
Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences
6111 Knollwood Drive
Falls Church, VA 22041
Phone: 703-575-6800
Fax: 703-575-6897
E-mail: baileys@erols.com
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Declaration of Partnership

*The USDA Forest Service hereby declares its partnership with **Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences**. We unite as mutual contributors in the partnership to pursue an enriching relationship that will positively affect the lives and future of the school, the agency, and the community.*



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



**Forest
Service**



**Fairfax County
Public Schools**
Fairfax, Virginia

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